REVIEW.

Thursday, January 8. 1713.

THE Subject of Trade, which I am now entred upon, has this one Excellency in it, for the Benefit of the Author, that really it can never be exhausted, and indeed such are the Follies and Absurdities of our present Notions of Trade, that should I go on, as I have begun, to treat of them first, before I come to discourse solidly of real Improvement; I should be in danger to spend my whole Life to Satyrize and divert you, and die before I came to Profit and Improve you; like the Famous Reader of Divinity at *Prague, I think it was*, or *Vienna*, of whom Mr. *Fuller* writes in his *Holy State*, who being appointed to lecture upon the Propheſie of *Iſaiah*, read two and forty Year upon the first Chapter, and never got thro' it till he died.

I am jesting with you a little upon the mighty Improvements we are arriv'd to in Trade, and I have you some of them in my last—— The Truth of which, I cannot but illustrate by some extraordinary Examples. I instanc'd in our *Coffee*, *Tea*, and *Chocolate*, which it is well known are now become Capital Branches of the Nations Commerce—*That the Fact is true*, no body will question, when they view the *Custom house Books*, and see whole Ships entred there, loaden entirely with *Coffee*; and when they read the Cargoes of our *East India-Men* with 300000 *l.* of Tea imported at a time; and *Cocoa* in its due proportion, will be found so assistant in the Duties paid to the Government, that I defy any Nation in the World shewing an equal Revenue, raised from three such Foreign Trifles, the Importation of which, within this threescore Years, did not all together pay Ten Pound a Year Custom.

I am now to examine a little the real Advantages these mighty improv'd Trades are to us, how many Families, and what Multitudes of Hands they employ, for these are the Things which recommend any Article of Trade, and make a Manufacture valuable to a Nation.

I remember, some time ago, I gave you a Hint about the mighty alteration in the face of Trade in this City, I cannot but touch it again on this Occasion, because it relates to what I am upon: Let any Man who remembers the Glorious State of our Trade about 30 or 40 Years past, *View but the Streets* of this Opulent City, and even the *Exchange* of *London*, nay, even our Courts of..... it must of necessity put him in mind of the 3 *Ezra*. 12. where the Ancient Men, who had seen the Old Temple, wept when they saw the weak Foundations of the New.

However, to go on as I began, and examine our new encrease of Commerce, which we so much boast of; let me note a little to you with what mighty Advantage the Chasms Gaps, and Breaches of our Trade are fill'd up of late, and let us see it, I say, in the Streets: Here, in the room of a Trifling Banker or Goldsmith, we are supply'd with a most Eminent Brandy-Shop. (*Cheapside*) There in the room of *Ditto*, you have a flaming Shop for white Tea-pots, and luted Earthen Muggs. (*Cornhill*) The most excellent Off-spring of that most valuable Manufacture of Earthen-Ware. It is impossible that *Coffee*, *Tea*, and *Chocolate* can be so advanc'd in their Consumption, without an eminent Encrease of those Trades that attend them; whence we see the most noble Shops in the City taken up with the valuable Utensils of the Tea-Table. The *China* Warehouses are little Marts within themselves, *and by the way, are newly become Markets of clandestine Trade, of which I shall say more very quickly*; and the Eminent Corner Houses in the chief Streets of *London*, are chosen out by the Town Tinkers to furnish us with Tea-Kettles, and Chocolate-Pots; Vide *Catherine-street* and *Bedford-Buildings*, Two Thousand Pound is reckon'd a small Stock in Copper Pots and Lacker'd Kettles, and the very fitting up one of these Brazen Peoples Shops with fine Sashes, *&c.* to set forth his Ware, costs above 500 *l.* Sterling, which is more by half than the best Draper or Mercers Shop in *London* requires.

This certainly shews the encrease of our Trade, Brass-Locks for our Chambers and Parlours, brass Knockers for our Doors, and the like, add to the Lustre of those Shops, of which hereafter; and the same Sash Works, only finer and larger, are now used to range your Brass and Copper, that the Goldsmiths had always to set out their less valuable Silver and Gold Plate.

From hence, be pleased to look upon the Druggists of the Town, who are the Merchants of these Things, *Bucklers-Bury* and *Little Lombard-street* were the places which, a few Years ago, held the whole Number,

ber, a very few excepted of that difficult nice Employment, whose Number is now spread over the whole Town; and with the most Capital Stocks, whose whole Employ is the furnishing us by Wholesale and Retale, with these most valuable of all Druggs, *Coffee*, *Tea*, and *Chocolate*——The general Furniture of a Druggists Shop being now three Bales of *Coffee*, twelve Boxes of *Chocolate*, six large Canisters of *Tea*, and an hundred and fifty empty Guilded Boxes.

In like manner, the rest of the Town; How gloriously is it supplied!——How do Pastry-Cooks and Perriwig-Makers, Brandy-Shops, and Toy-Shops, succeed Linnen-Drapers, Mercers, Upholdsterers and the like, a Hundred Pound a Year Rent for a House to sell *Jellies* and *Apple-Pies*; Two hundred Pound to fit up a Brandy-Shop, and afterwards, not a Hundred Pound Stock to put into it; *These I can shew many Instances of.*

Look, Gentlemen, upon the particular Parts of your Town, formerly eminent for the best of Tradesmen! View the famous Church-Yard of St. *Paul's*! where so many Aldermen and Lord Mayors have been raised by the Trade of Broad Cloath and meer Woolen Manufactures; and on whose Trades so many Families of Poor always depended, that Sir *William Turner* used to say, his Shop alone, employed 50000 Poor People!—What succeeds him? A most noble, and to be sure, a much more valuable Vintner's Warehouse, *Anglice*, a Tavern, *more Vulgarly*, a Bawdy-house: And the next Drapers-Shop, a Coffee-house; What takes up the whole Row there? and supplies the place of Eighteen or Nineteen topping Drapers?——Who can but observe it! Cane Chair-makers, Guilders of Leather, Looking-glass-Shops, and Pedlers or Toyshops: Manifold improvements of Trade! and an eminent Instance of the Growth of our Manufactures!

Go from hence to *Holborn-Bridge*, a Place where once was a flourishing Business; and let any one but Count from thence, up *Snow-Hill*, and thro' *Newgate-street*, and tell me how many Shops of Eminent Traders are now, *most comfortably to the Landlords*, shut up there, and ready to be let at half their usual Rents? It is not many Months ago, since I reckoned up Eight and thirty empty Houses in that part particularly.

But of this I shall say more when I come to speak of the Decay of our Whole-sale Trade, and of the Circulation of our Manufactures among our selves.

As to the Face of the City, of which I am now speaking, I shall conclude it with this one Remark; Let any Man who thinks our Trade improved a encreased, walk thro' the Principal Streets, wh our Trade formerly flourished, such as *Cheapside*, C *hill*, *Leadenhall street*, *Newgate-street*, *Fleet str Snow-hill*, the *Strand*, *Paul's-Church-Yard*, *Paternos Row*, *Grace-Church-street*, *Cannon street*, *Watl street*, and such like Places: And, *First*, Let reckon up all the Houses which are now to be L and are actually Shut up, and then let him set a all the Pastry-Cooks, Coffee-houses, Perryw makers, Cane Chair-Men, Looking-Glass Sho Tinkers, *China*, or Earthenware-Men, Brandy-Sho *and the like*; I mean such as deal in Baubles Trifles, and whose Trades used to be found only Lanes, and Allies, or Back-Streets and By-Pla and are fittest for Such Places; I say, let him l upon all these *as Shops shut up*, and *as Houses Em* and to be Lett, as indeed, thhy ought to be esteem *comparing our Trade to what it has been*, and wha sad tatter'd Condition will this *Improving C* look in?

How the Town may appear now, I know n having been out of it some time; but I'll tell what my own Observation about five Months a was, *and I doubt it is but little better since*, (vi That there were at that time, Shut-up, and to Lett, in the Capital Streets of *London*, Thr hundred and seventeen large Capital Shops a Houses: *That*, of the Trades abovementioned, a such others, as within my Remembrance, it wou have been thought very odd to have seen in t High-Streets of the Town, there were Thirte hundred twenty two—so that we might reckon that time, One thousand six hundred thirty ni Houses and Shops Empty, and to be Lett, above 67 which were between *Ludgate* and *Temple-bar*, amo which, I reckon'd neither Ale-house nor Tavern th had ever been Ale-house or Tavern before.

These are the Evidences to be drawn from t Nature of Things, to prove the Improvement a Encrease of our Commerce. I shall enquire a litt into the Causes and Remedies of these Things their Order; I assure you, however the War m have helped forward these Things, it is not t best Peace in the World will remedy them, witho some other Measures to be taken also.

ERRATA.

Review, No. 41. p. 81. Col. 2. l. 11. for *prevende* read *prevented*, ib. last Line but Two. for *Pure* re *Part*. p. 82. col. 1. l. 37. for *it is possible*, read *is possible*. ib. col. 2. l. last, dele *to*.

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